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John E. Benedict
Director
Government Affairs

June 30, 2006

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street, SW
Room TWB-204
Washington, DC 20554

Re: **Notice of Ex Parte Communication**

Petition of Time Warner Cable for Declaratory Ruling that Competitive Local Exchange Carriers May Obtain Interconnection Under Section 251 of the Communications Act of 1934, as Amended, to Provide Wholesale Telecommunications Services to VoIP Providers

WC Docket No. 06-55

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On June 29, 2006, Vonya McCann, Charles McKee, and I met on behalf of Sprint Nextel Corporation with Michelle Carey, Senior Legal Advisor to Chairman Kevin Martin, about the petition for declaratory ruling, pending in this docket.

We supported prompt grant of the petition to ensure that federal law is applied correctly and consistently. Wholesale carriers like Sprint Nextel, we observed, enable competition and benefit the public. Misapplication of section 251 of the Act by some state commissions, and mischaracterization of section 251 obligations by some rural LECs, is frustrating entry, preventing consumer choice, and discouraging investment in rural areas that most need it.

We explained that sections 251(a) and (b) obligate all LECs, even rural carriers, to interconnect with wholesale carriers for the exchange of traffic in support of cable telephony or other competitive services. Commission and court precedent show that these wholesale services are not private carriage, and any questions about the status of VoIP are irrelevant to wholesale carriers' right to interconnection.

Pursuant to the requirements of Section 1.1206 of the Commission's rules, Sprint is filing an electronic copy of this notice for addition to the docket.

Respectfully submitted,

John E. Benedict

cc: Michelle Carey